David N. Cohen

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Director, Air Platform Systems Engineering Department
Naval Air Systems Command

Mr. Cohen currently serves as the Director of the Air Platform Systems Engineering Department. He has systems engineering cognizance for all rotary, fixed-wing, unmanned vehicles and weapons programs in NAVAIR and assigns, supervises and oversees the Chief Engineers for each of these platforms.

Mr. Cohen was selected to the Senior Executive Service in September, 2004 and has 26 years of civilian service with the Department of the Navy.

Mr. Cohen served as the Technical Director for the VXX Presidential helicopter program from October 2003 to February 2005. Mr. Cohen led the technical team through successful source selection and initial contract award.

Mr. Cohen was promoted to GS-15 Chief Engineer of the V-22 Osprey program in February, 1999. His tenure on the Osprey began shortly before the two fatal mishaps which grounded and nearly terminated the program. He developed and directed the V-22 Technical Recovery Program which resolved the technical issues, and helped convince DoD leadership to continue the program. He directed the activities which eventually returned the aircraft to flight and helped develop its current Block Upgrade program which has led to successful wartime deployment with the USMC and successful Operational Evaluation of the Special Operations variant.

In October, 1988 Mr. Cohen was promoted to GS-14 in the position of Senior Engineer, and eventually Director of Engineering, for the entire F-14 weapon system. During his tenure in this position he directed the transformation of the F-14 from strictly a fighter platform to the Navy's premier strike-fighter, through the integration of systems such as LANTIRN, laser-guided and GPS guided weapons, night-vision, and ground-mapping radar.

He began his professional career at the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR) in the Engineering and Scientist Development Program. From 1982 to 1988 he served in the large turbine engine branch of the Propulsion and Power Division. Mr. Cohen first served as assistant project engineer for the new AV-8 Harrier program. During this period he helped oversee the development, qualification and initial production of the upgraded engine for the new AV-8B weapon system. He went on to become the lead project engineer for the A-4/A-6/EA-6B propulsion system where he developed the J-52 Recovery Program – a $1B effort to overcome fatigue and other issues associated with the aging fleet of engines. He then became the system program manager for the F-14B/D propulsion system where he directed the completion of development, qualification, integration and initial production of the new F110 engine.

Mr. Cohen earned his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Youngstown State University in 1982.

His professional recognition includes award of the Vice President's Reinventing Government (Hammer) Award, multiple recipient of the Department of the Navy Meritorious Service Award and recipient of the Department's highest civilian honor, the Distinguished Service Award.

Mr. Cohen is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Tau Beta Pi Honorary Societies and a NAVAIR Associate Fellow.